

# What is Rojava?

*More than a region,  
not just an ethnic group*

Rojava, a majority Kurdish part of northeastern Syria, became an autonomous region run by a Self-Administration rather than a state in July 2012, following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, (SDF) a coalition of local forces led by mostly Kurdish YPG and women-only YPJ units, defeated ISIS in March 2019 with the help of an international coalition, led by the US.

They have centered feminist, social ecology, and democratic values as the framework of their political society.



Occupied by turkish army    Border cities facing seige

## Women's liberation

Institutions have female and male co-chairs and require 40% women members, while women's communes have veto power over decisions affecting women.

## Social ecology

Large areas previously used for grain monoculture are being reforested, while international and local people are working together to preserve the water supply and develop alternatives to fossil fuel.

## Direct democracy

Citizens participate actively in all public decision-making and management, in a system of democratic confederalism beginning with delegates elected by neighborhood communes. Ethnic and religious discrimination is against the law and all groups have political representation.

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### Important to know

The Syrian Defense Forces (SDF) have been America's most significant ally in fighting ISIS, losing 11,000 men and women in the process.

Turkey claims to be establishing a "safe zone," but we are witnessing a repeat of the horror in Afrin during the Turkish invasion of December 2018. Hundreds of thousands fled and Kurds and their allies were replaced by refugees from other parts of Syria in what was effectly ethnic cleansing.

The air raids pose an undefendable assault. The only way prevent loss of life and give the SDF a chance is for the US to declare a No-Fly Zone immediately.

On Sunday, Oct. 6, Donald Trump gave Turkey the green light to invade Rojava. In a blatant betrayal to our Kurdish allies, US troops were actively withdrawn to allow Turkey's genocidal invasion. The US and NATO have been complacent in the face of Turkey's war crimes. In the vacuum of US presence, Turkish brutality has manifested as indiscriminate air raids unleashed upon civilians in an already war-torn region. A self-determined society faces annihilation.



Photo by AFP

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